IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant(s):	Toru Nagase, et al.	**Examiner:**	Melanie Ruano Tyson
Serial No:	10/678,503	**Art Unit:**	3773
Filed:	October 3, 2003	**Docket:**	17096
For:	SURGICAL INSTRUMENT	**Dated:**	June 13, 2008
Conf. No.:	1949		

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

RESPONSE

Sir:

In response to the Official Action dated February 14, 2008, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration of the above-identified application in light of the following amendments and remarks:

CERTIFICATE OF ELECTRONIC FILING

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Patent & Trademark Office via Electronic Filing through the United States Patent and Trademark Office e-business website, on the date set forth below.

Dated: June 13, 2008

Thomas Spinelli